

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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A1 5
1. A method of presenting an audiovisual signal to a user's audiovisual display monitor comprising:
- receiving a command from the user;
- responding to the command by assigning an assignable computing device (ACD) to the user;
- 10 establishing a communications link between the user's audiovisual display monitor and the ACD;
- presenting a menu containing a selection of video programs to the user's audiovisual display monitor with the ACD;
- selecting one of the video programs for display; and
- 15 routing said selected video program to the user's audiovisual display monitor.
2. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein presenting includes:
- displaying graphical images representative of buttons on the user's
- 20 audiovisual display monitor.

3. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein establishing includes:

receiving commands from an in-room communications device with
the ACD; and

responding to said commands with responsive graphical images

5 displayed on the user's audiovisual display monitor.

4. A method in accordance with claim 3, wherein receiving commands
include:

demodulating an RF signal containing said commands received over

10 said communications link.

5. A method in accordance with claim 3, wherein said responding to said
commands include:

modulating an RF carrier with a signal carrying said responsive

15 graphical images; and

transmitting said RF carrier to the user's audiovisual display
monitor.

6. A method in accordance with claim 4, wherein said commands select the
20 one of the video programs for display.

7. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said presenting includes:

presenting a series of menus containing a selection of video programming to the user's audiovisual display monitor.

5 8. A method in accordance with claim 7, wherein said series of menus reflects the currently available video programs.

9. A method in accordance with claim 7, wherein said series of menus reflects a set of user preferences.

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10. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein routing said selected video program includes;

obtaining the video signal from an audiovisual serving device to the user's video modulating the video signal onto an RF carrier; and

15 transmitting said RF carrier to the user's audiovisual display monitor.

11. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the ACD causes the selected video program to be transmitted over the communications link to the user's audiovisual display monitor.

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12. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein a host computing device in communication with the ACD causes the video program to be transmitted over the communications link to the user's audiovisual display monitor.

5 13. A method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising:
 breaking said communications link between the user and the ACD in
 response to selecting; and
 establishing another communications link between an audiovisual server
 device having stored thereon the selected video program and the user's audiovisual
 10 display monitor.

14. A method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising:
 presenting a broadcast channel on the user's audiovisual display
 monitor prior to said receiving.

15 15. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said responding further
 includes:

having a host computing device in communication with the user's
 audiovisual display monitor assign an ACD to the user.

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16 An apparatus for presenting an audiovisual signal to a user's audiovisual
 display monitor, comprising:

a programming subsystem;

a Room Communication Subsystem (RCS);

a Site Management Subsystem (SMS);

said RCS connecting a plurality of user's audiovisual display monitors to

5 the system;

said programming subsystem including a plurality of audiovisual serving
 devices communicating with the user's audiovisual display monitor over said
 RCS; and

said SMS assigning an Assignable Computing Device (ACD) audiovisual
 10 serving device to present a menu containing a selection of video programs to the
 user's audiovisual display monitor over said RCS.

17. An apparatus in accordance with claim 16 wherein said menu display
 image is representative of buttons on user's audiovisual display monitor.

18. An apparatus in accordance with claim 16 wherein said ACD receives
 commands from an in-room communication device; and

responds to said commands with a responsive display image on the user's
 audiovisual display monitor.

19. An apparatus in accordance with claim 18 wherein receiving said commands includes demodulating an RF signal containing said commands received over said RCS.

5 20. An apparatus in accordance with claim 18 wherein responding to said commands includes:

modulating an RF carries with a signal carrying said responsive display images; and

transmitting said RF carries to the user's audiovisual display monitor.

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21. An apparatus in accordance with claim 18 wherein said commands select the video programs for display.

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22. An apparatus in accordance with claim 16 wherein said ACD presents a series of menus containing a selection of video programs to the user's audiovisual display monitor.

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23. An apparatus in accordance with claim 22 wherein said series of menus reflects the currently available video programs.

24. An apparatus in accordance with claim 22 wherein said series of menus reflects a set of user preferences.

25. An apparatus in accordance with claim 16 wherein said SMS in communication with said ACD causes a video program to be transmitted by said programming subsystem to the user's audiovisual display monitor.

5 26. An apparatus in accordance with claim 16 wherein selecting a video program from said menu breaks the communications links between said ACD and the user's audiovisual display monitor.

27. An apparatus in accordance with claim 16 wherein said programming
10 subsystem presents a broadcast channel prior to said ACD presenting said menu.